



STATE SENATOR  
**BRUCE PATTERSON**  
IN THE LOOP ★

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04/28/06

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**Canton's Ford-Beck Road project gets green light**

An agreement reached between the Legislature and the governor's office will restore or advance transportation projects and tourism marketing that will provide jobs and economic opportunities for many communities statewide. Safety improvements to the Ford Road and Beck Road interchange will be among the many projects. Lawmakers will implement the legislation needed for these projects in the next few weeks.

The Ford Road corridor in Canton became a point of congestion as the area developed into a major regional shopping zone.

Rep. Phil LaJoy and Sen. Patterson hailed the announcement. Sen. Patterson said, "I have watched Canton grow from a small, rural community to a bustling suburb with burgeoning commercial life. We need this improvement to catch up with our present, and prepare for our future. Everyone will benefit from safer traffic flow."



**Patterson Congratulates Grand Prize Poster Contest Winner**

Yet another from the same school! Kindergartner Chase Yops of Parke Lane Elementary School, Grosse Ile, was among over 375 entrants in a poster contest sponsored by U.S. Steel-Great Lakes Works, *The News-Herald*, and Downriver Council for the Arts. The

theme was “Earthday Every Day!” Chase took Grand Prize, First Place honors, at ceremonies on April 8. His art work was printed in *The News-Herald*. It proclaims, “We are part of the Earth.” Sen. Patterson was on hand to celebrate Chase’s accomplishment.

Chase’s poster is reproduced by the kind permission of Karl Ziomec, Editor, *News-Herald*.

### **Dumpster divers find your medical records?**

How would you feel if your personal, private medical records were to be tossed into the trash like yesterday’s newspaper? Violated? Shocked? Exposed?

In an era when identity theft has become a criminal plague, Sen. Bruce Patterson, 7<sup>th</sup> District, has authored a bill to require careful disposal of records whose retention is no longer necessary.

“My bill is to protect the privacy of individuals,” said Patterson. “Medical records are between individuals and their doctors, and their insurer, if need be; but no one else should have access to them, even by accident. Clearly, private records should never be discarded in a haphazard way. Confidentiality must be maintained.”

Patterson is vice-chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee. Senate Bill 466 passed the Senate Thursday with strong bipartisan sponsorship. It is part of a bipartisan package of bills, including SB 465 (sponsored by Sen. Gilda Jacobs, R-Huntington Woods), which concerns health care facilities, and SB 467 (sponsored by Sen. Tom George, M.D., R-Kalamazoo), which protects personal genetic information.

Sen. Patterson worked closely with the governor’s office to craft the appropriate language for the bills. The legislation protects computerized records as well as paper records.

“We must keep up with technology as it advances,” said Patterson. “The old statute was enacted in 1939. It was outdated.”

SB 466 also requires that Medicaid records be retained for seven years after the end of service, rather than six years, as is now required.

### **Vets’ Monuments bills get House hearing**

Sen. Patterson’s bills, SB 881-882, to establish standards for protection for military monuments on state lands, got a hearing on April 25. Several constituents were on hand, representing veterans’ organizations. Discussion indicates a desire to broaden the bills, to embrace monuments to fallen police, firefighters, and first responders, too. The bills have already passed the Senate.

### **Patterson column appears in local papers**

<http://www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060425/OPINION01/604250308/1008>

The Detroit News, the Northville Record, and other papers have run a column by Sen. Patterson on a proposed change in tax law to support families saving funds for college. Financial planner Steve Braun of Canton brought a flaw in the current law to Sen. Patterson’s attention: Parents could save for several children’s funds, but when the first child entered college, withdrawals from that fund were counted against donations for the

other children. This unintentionally hit middle and lower income families. Sen. Patterson's bill will correct this injustice.

### **SAVE the Children legislation now law**

SAVE the Children, a landmark bill package to help prevent early learning failure and provide students with tools and skills for educational life success, was signed into law. A component of the plan establishes an Early Intervening Grant Program, administered by the Department of Education. Like the Northville School program on which it is based, this program will prevent early academic struggles from leading to failure down the road by recommending appropriate interventions for these young students. It will help bolster academic success by focusing on students in kindergarten through third grades.

The program will allow schools with successful intervention models to act as instructional mentors for other school districts interested in setting up their own program. It will develop four model sites and up to 15 sites of improvement. The plan is targeted at districts with special education populations exceeding the state average. School districts with a percentage of pupils reading below grade level also are eligible.

"Few things frustrate a child more than constantly struggling with schoolwork, without hope of progress," said Sen. Patterson. "By contrast, nothing seems to build a child's hope more than being able to work on such obstacles and overcome them. This program provides the essential intervention to empower these students and build their confidence as they learn to succeed academically. In addition, because of the priority of early involvement, the plan has already demonstrated it can save school districts millions of dollars." Last year the Northville program saved Northville Public Schools \$7.3 million.

"That is money that can then go back into the classroom, where it is needed most. As we are raising the bar on high-school graduation requirements, and concern is expressed about likely dropouts and the financial cost to society, this program can get students on the right track. That can avoid higher dropout rates, risky adolescent behavior and later need for remedial education. A well-educated workforce starts with a strong academic foundation."

### **Comcast Newsmakers to feature Sen. Patterson**

On the cable channel which brings you CNN-Headline News, at the times listed below, from May 8 through May 14, an interview with Senator Patterson will be aired throughout Southeast Michigan. The times marked with an asterisk are the more reasonable times, six minutes before the hour.

Cable affiliates are only afforded limited time for local features of interest. Sen. Patterson addresses the energy issues that are of prime concern today.

### **Senator Bruce Patterson**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
5/8	5/9	5/10	5/11	5/12	5/13	5/14

2:54 AM	2:54 AM	2:54 AM	2:54 AM	2:54 AM	12:54 AM	12:54 AM
6:54 AM	6:54 AM	6:54 AM	6:54 AM	6:54 AM	4:54 AM	4:54 AM
*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*9:54 AM	*9:54 AM
*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*2:54 PM	*2:54 PM
					*7:54 PM	*7:54 PM

**Comcast Newsmakers airs on CNN-Headline News; check your local listing.**

### **Office Hours schedule for May, 2006**

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

May 1<sup>st</sup> -- Fred C. Fischer Library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville,  
especially for all in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships

May 8<sup>th</sup> -- Gibraltar City Hall, 28002 North Gibraltar Road

May 15<sup>th</sup> -- Coffee Lounge, 45610 Cherry Hill (just W. of Canton Center Rd), Canton

May 22<sup>nd</sup> -- Mochavation Café, 8537 Macomb Street, Grosse Ile, with *time change*:  
9 am to 11 am.

### **Upcoming event: Breakfast with Bruce**

Trenton, Westfield Center - May 19<sup>th</sup>

Details coming soon.

### **Contact Information**

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < [senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov) >.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!